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FM AMEMBASSY ABUJA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9797
INFO RUEHOS/AMCONSUL LAGOS 7078
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC

UNCLAS ABUJA 001165

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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SUBJECT: NIGERIA RESPONDS TO MERCURY DEMARCHE

REF: 2006 STATE 202028

¶1. Six months after reftel demarche was delivered, the Nigerian government has responded to the request on mercury issues at the 24th session of the U.N. Environment Program's Governing Council that took place February 5-9, 2007.

¶2. The following is the text of the Diplomatic Note from the GON: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of. Nigeria presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and has the honour to refer to your Aide- Memoire on the control of mercury production and to inform that:

(i) The contents of the Aide-Memoire was duly conveyed to the Federal Ministry of Environment and Housing;

(ii) The Hsmourable Minister of State of the Federal Ministry of Environment & Housing led the Nigerian delegation to the 24th Session of the UNEP Governing Council which took place in Nairobi, Kenya from 4th - 9th February, 2007;

(iii) The African region, at the Session, submitted its position on mercury as input into the work of the contact group on chemicals;

(iv) The Session had concluded its work by adopting a decision on mercury, taking cognizance of various positions and options proffered by Governments to address the mercury challenge;

(v) The Session's decision on mercury, paved the way for a structured process to address issues related to mercury at the national, regional and global levels;

(vi) The Ministry of Environment and Housing has initiated necessary follow - up actions through the preparation of project proposals to address the yawning gap of lack of necessary information. to facilitate national decision -making process in respect of mercury and other heavy metals of concern; and

(vi) Technical and financial assistance through current partnership initiatives being promoted by the US Government will be sought to fill the gap.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America its highest consideration.

CAMPBELL